

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 208939
ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY:EA/RBOAKLEY:LRP

APPROVED BY:EA:RHOLBROOK

NEA: MR. DRAPER

S/S: MR. TARNOFF

NSC:OCKSENBERG(IN SUB)

EUR: MR. VINE

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O 171831Z AUG 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 208939

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D COPY(OMISSION OF CLEARANCES)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (NIXON, RICHARD)

SUBJECT: TRAVEL BY FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON

REF: BANGKOK 23372 (NOTAL)

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1. WE UNDERSTAND THAT FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON HOPES TO MAKE AN ASIAN TRIP DURING THE SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER TIME FRAME AND THAT HIS FORMER AIDE, COLONEL JACK BRENNAN, HAS CONTACTED A NUMBER OF FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS, PRIMARILY THROUGH THEIR EMBASSIES HERE, TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES. NIXON WOULD REPORTEDLY BE ACCOMPANIED BY SEVENTEEN OTHER PERSONS, INCLUDING FOURTEEN SECURITY PERSONNEL. HE WOULD LIKE TO

BE "WELL RECEIVED" AND BE ABLE TO CONFER WITH HIGH-RANKING OFFICIALS, NOTABLY CHIEFS OF STATE AND/OR HEADS OF GOVERNMENT. IN SEVERAL CASES, NIXON HAS HAD A LONG-STANDING INVITATION (E.G. IRAN, SINGAPORE, ROK; OTHERS HAVE BEEN ADDED AT HIS OWN INITIATIVE).

2. WE DO NOT HAVE A DEFINITIVE LIST OF ALL THE GOVERNMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN OR WILL BE APPROACHED. HOWEVER, WE UNDERSTAND THAT THEY INCLUDE JAPAN, ROK, PHILIPPINES, THAILAND, SINGAPORE AND AUSTRALIA PLUS IRAN. ROMANIA IS A POSSIBILITY BUT HAS APPARENTLY NOT YET BEEN APPROACHED. WE KNOW THAT AUSTRALIA AND THAILAND HAVE ALREADY BEEN APPROACHED.

3. AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, NIXON HAS NOT FINALLY MADE UP HIS MIND WHICH COUNTRIES HE INTENDS TO VISIT AND HE MAY NOT VISIT ALL OF THESE ON THE LIST, EVEN IF PRELIMINARY APPROACHES ARE MADE. THIS COULD CAUSE SOME MISUNDERSTANDING ON THE PART OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.

4. IF QUERIED BY HOST GOVERNMENTS, AND ONLY IF INITIATIVE IS THEIRS, YOU MAY REPLY THAT DEPARTMENT IS AWARE OF THE POSSIBILITY OF A NIXON TRIP AND THAT WE UNDERSTAND THE FINAL DECISIONS HAVE NOT YET BEEN TAKEN AS TO WHICH COUNTRIES TO VISIT ALTHOUGH A NUMBER OF INQUIRIES HAVE BEEN MADE. FURTHER, THE USG HAS NO OBJECTION TO TRIP WHICH WE UNDERSTAND IS COMPLETELY PRIVATE IN NATURE.

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5. WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN MORE PRECISION FROM COLONEL BRENNAN AND WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED. SHOULD TRIP EVENTUATE, EMBASSIES SHOULD BE PREPARED TO OFFER APPROPRIATE FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE TO NIXON AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS. VANCE

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